

Recommended Talking Points for LIHEAP

#1. Say Thanks for LIHEAP funding for this year. Let your member know how much you appreciate their support of LIHEAP. Explain how big the need for energy help is by explaining the dangerous family situations you were able to remedy because of program, i.e., helping cover high energy costs, people reconnected, more people served. Emphasize that LIHEAP helps working poor and their families.

Also say how many people are not being served and your concerns for the summer ahead. Your presentation can show that there is huge need remaining without making it sound as if CAAs are just never satisfied.

Add Weatherization and its benefits to your story as well.

#2. Tell them the LIHEAP program is being reauthorized this year and that you hope to have their support. Tell those Community Action hopes for a reauthorization bill that will strengthen the program, continuing to take advantage of gains you have made at the local level.

#3. Share any LIHEAP or Weatherization innovations you are proud of or other agency related energy initiatives you are involved in.

Try to leave the meeting with:

- An understanding that your agency should be viewed as a local expert in energy related issues concerning low-income people and that she/he can turn to you as a sounding board or for advice.
- A commitment from the Member to support a strong LIHEAP reauthorization and sufficient funding for FY 2004.
- A commitment from the Member to come visit your agencies LIHEAP program.
- Offer additional reasons for continuing to have contact with the Member.